

A new species of spider of the genus *Ctenus* (Family: Ctenidae) from Meghalaya, India¹

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(With five text-figures)

The spiders of the family Ctenidae were not known from India before 1973. Recently Tikader reported this genus for the first time from Andaman Islands. While examining the spider collection from Meghalaya, India I came across a new species of the genus *Ctenus* which is described here. This family and the genus are being recorded here for the second time from the Indian sub-continent.

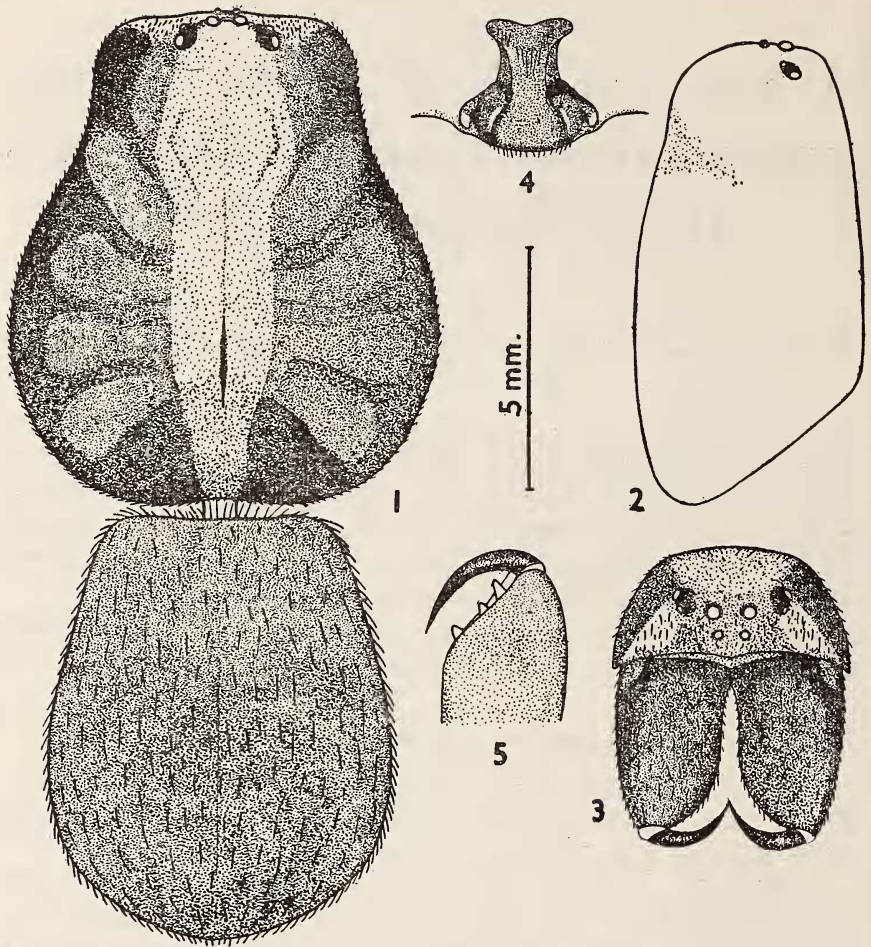
The type specimen will in due course be deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Ctenus meghalayaensis* sp. nov.**

General: Cephalothorax and legs light reddish-brown, abdomen brown. Total length 20.00 mm. Carapace 10.80 mm long, 9.00 mm wide; abdomen 9.00 mm long, 7.00 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: Longer than wide, high and behind with a very steep thoracic declivity as in text-figure 2, clothed with pubescence and few spine-like hairs. Middle of cephalothorax provided with a fovea and a longitudinal, broad light pale band, extending from ocular area to base of cephalothorax. Eyes in three rows, the anterior lateral eyes being situated in front of the posterior median and posterior lateral eyes but slightly closer to the posterior laterals than to the posterior medians as in text-figures 1, 3. Anterior lateral eyes smaller than the anterior medians. Sternum nearly oval, pointed behind, deep brown, clothed with black hairs. Labium longer than wide, and head of maxillae provided with prominent scopulae. Chelicera with three teeth as in text-figure 5. Legs robust and strong, clothed with hairs and spines; tarsus provided with two claws and prominent claw tuft. Metatarsi and tarsi of I and II provided with five and three pairs of ventral spines respectively. Legs formula 1423.

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Figs. 1-5. *Ctenus meghalayaensis* sp. nov.

1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Lateral view of cephalothorax, legs omitted; 3. Front view of head, showing arrangement of eyes; 4. Epigyne; 5. Inner view of left chelicera of female.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, wider behind, clothed with fine hairs. Ventral side more deep brown than the dorsal side. Epigyne as in text-figure 4.

Type-specimen: One female in spirit.

Type-locality: Barapani Road side, Shillong, Meghalaya, India. Coll. A. K. Ghosh, 17-viii-1973.

This species resembles *Ctenus kapuri* Tikader from Andaman but differs as follows: (i) Ventral side of abdomen uniform deep brown in colour but in *C. kapuri* ventral side of abdomen deep brown in colour and ornamented with conspicuous rows of white dots. (ii) Inner mar-

gin of furrow of chelicera with three teeth but in *C. kapuri* inner margin of furrow of chelicera with five teeth. (iii) Epigyne also structurally different.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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